

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

April, 2001

April Meeting Speaker Fred Tortora on Marconi Wireless Sites

President's Message

March has been a busy month for me. On Tuesday the 6th I stopped by the Novato PD during a RACES net for a RACES open house. There were several Novato hams on site and we were treated to coffee and donuts, a traditional law enforcement meal. Hi. They have a very nice RACES radio room set up, containing three Kenwood radios, one each on simplex, 147.330 and packet operation.

The next day I attended the Sonoma Amateur Radio Club meeting in Santa Rosa where I met ARRL section manager Len Gwinn, WA6KLLK. One of the members brought a Yaesu 817 QRP rig. This one covers 160 through 440, all modes.

I have been in contact with one of the malls regarding operating a station for the **ARRL Kids Day** on June 16th. By chance the contact person at the mall is the daughter of a ham and is very familiar with amateur radio. She is going to have the mall marketing people contact me to try to set something up. This mall attracts a large number of young people that we can possibly interest in ham radio. Kids Day will also offer us a chance to promote **Field Day** the following weekend. For those who may not be familiar with Kids Day, it is held on the weekend prior to Field Day. Local time is from 1000 to 1600. No limit on operating time.

Suggested exchange: Name, age, location and favorite color. You are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call "CQ Kids Day." Suggested freqs: 28.350 to 28.400, 21.380 to 21.400, 14.270 to 14.300 and 2m repeater freqs. Of course, we will have to observe third party traffic restrictions on DX QSOs.

de John KF6VYH

Website at W6SG.NET

Education Classes: General Class Upgrade. ARRL Exam Day with Open House and BarBQ

MARS will sponsor a General Class upgrade held on three consecutive Saturdays, April 7, 14 & 21, at the clubhouse 27 Shell Rd, Mill Valley. Time is 0900 to 1100. This is theory, only, and will use the ARRL General Class License Manual for study material **which the students must provide**. These should be available from places such as HRO or the ARRL, itself. **Time is short. Inform Ed Karl if you are planning to attend the classes.** Code practice will be available at other times.

ARRL Exam Day-April 28, 2001.

MARS will hold a special test session as part of ARRL Exam Days. Registration begins at 0900 and ends when testing begins, no later than 0930. Tests for all classes and CW will be given. **ONLY TEST CANDIDATES AND VEs WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE CLUBHOUSE DURING THE VE SESSION.**

Open House & BarBQ

MARS will hold an open house of the club facilities, and a hot dog BarBQ beginning at 1130 or when the VE testing is finished.

Field Day 2001

should be a continuation of the fun and fellowship of MARS membership.

There will be either 3 or 4 stations on the air simultaneously from the traditional spot, the Marin Rod & Gun Club grounds at the western end of the 580 Bay crossing.

Stu Duke, Master Chef, who is reputed to have studied at the Lucretia Borgia school of cooking, will prepare the traditional challenge dinner Saturday night. (Feeding our crowd is a challenge in itself.) Tums and Roloids not supplied.

We are looking for operators and will be setting up schedules. Please contact **Ed** or **Chet** with your preference/s, time wise.

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Mailing Address
P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Reader's Column

On the acronym for the local QRPers, I do think that MARC as a traditional name has had its benefits inasmuch as it drew a lot of attention to the locals when it was sometimes confused with that other great social organization in Marin, the MARIN ASSN. For RETARDED CHILDREN, (now 'CITIZENS', ed.) the MARC as they are still often called.

That closely related group has been around for over half a century, dormant at times but increasingly active in the last year or so. It is currently frequently noted in the columns of the IJ. One has to stop and think when encountering such headers, this to determine for whom they sound the horn. The Marin Amateur Radio Club or the Marin Assn. For Retarded Citizens.

The best way to find out whom may be among us would be to call out that MARC acronym at a club meeting and see who responds. Some of the attendees may be at the wrong meeting.

On the question of MARS. Remember Mars Lusinchi, W6PVC, who once was the editor of the club paper QSA-5. I often think of Mars when I read the Flyer. His name actually was Marcel Lusinchi but the Mars nameplate lingered on long after Mars was gone, now some three decades or so.

Actually, for what purpose need the club worry about the name? Is it needed solely for a mailing address or is it needed for quick reaction recognition?

A number of years back there was a DXer type who lived down in the relaxed town of Belvedere. He found when giving over the air his QTH, that

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MARS General Meeting, March 2, 2001

President John Iacono called the meeting to order at 1935 hours. Other officers present were John Boyd KB6ORI, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Herman Weiss WB4DCM, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, and Rich Carbine W6UDS.

There were a total of 26 members and guests in attendance.

There was no treasurer's report. It will be submitted at the March board meeting.

The minutes of the last General meeting were approved.

John Iacono detailed several committee reports. The Marin Rod and Gun club has approved the use of their facilities for MARS Field Day which will be held June 23 and 24. The club's annual picnic will be August 18. More details on these events in future of issues of QSA-5.

Rich Carbine said there was nothing new as far as building renovations for the clubhouse. There may be more news at the next board meeting.

Ed Karl, K0KL, may teach a 3 day course for people interested in getting their General ham license. This would be held on April 7, 14, and 21 and would be from 9 to noon. More on this at the board meeting.

Doug Slusher said the Big Rock repeater site has been cleaned up and several "bugs" taken care of. More improvements forthcoming.

Ben Sawtelle, N6PJZ, said to make sure your calendar is set for the club's Christmas party on Dec. 19. Final plans to be announced in Oct.

John Iacono said he is still waiting to hear from the local shopping malls about having the club operate a station during KIDS DAY on June 16. He also said George Rothbart KF6VSG would still like to hook up a repeater between Marin and Seattle. More news coming, possibly a presentation.

Gregory Exline, KD6YRB, gave a report on a recent American Red Cross emergency drill.

It was suggested the club get in touch with WORLD RADIO magazine to place our club in their "Visit Your Local Radio Club" section.

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There was a discussion on membership cards and also about a new club logo. It was suggested we mention this in QSA-5 and get ideas from our members.

The club is still looking into setting up a special events station at the Marin County Fair this coming July 4th weekend but nothing is definite yet.

Doug Slusher is our new membership chairman. Thank you Doug and many thanks to **Pete Wolford**, N6IYU, for his great job as past chairman.

Ed Karl was out of town but before he left he set up a video entitled "Rescue at Sea". This was a very entertaining story on the first rescue of passengers and crew of a sinking liner with the aid of spark-gap wireless using Morse code.

The meeting was adjourned at 2050.
Norm Baetz WA6CLK, secretary.

Board Meeting March 13

President John Iacono, KF6VYH, called the meeting to order at 1925. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Herman Weiss WB4DCM, Jackson Sauers W6JRI, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Rich Carbine W6UDS and Kevin Foley KF6YUF.

The minutes of the last board meeting were approved.

Lorraine Karl gave the Treasurer's report. Lorraine has a meeting this coming week with a CPA to go over the club's taxes for this past year. There was a discussion on the club's financial situation as to how it affects the taxes.

Doug Slusher gave a report on the state of the club's repeaters. There will be work done at the Mt. Tam site on March 22. Both Doug and Ed Karl, K0KL, told the board that there is a dire need for a new repeater at the San Pedro site. After a lengthy discussion the board approved the purchase of a new repeater.

Rich Carbine said there is nothing new to report on the remodeling of the clubhouse. He recommended the roof be repaired before any other work is

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from column two

done. Rich also said that **Alan Best**, K6AJB, has done quite a bit of fence work next to the clubhouse. Many thanks Alan, the club appreciates your hard work.

There was a discussion on possible donations to the club.

Ed Karl proposed the club list the equipment we want to sell in a future issue of QSA-5 with a minimum bid and interested members may bid on these items.

John Iacono has talked with an official at the Corte Madera shopping Center concerning Kids Day on June 16. The club would like to set up a ham station. Looks good so far, more details to follow.

Ed Karl proposed the club hold an open house after the VE exams on April 28 with hot dogs, etc., for the guests.

John Boyd suggested the club consider purchasing a video projector in the future.

The board approved we place our club in WORLD RADIO magazine. The cost \$ 65.00.

Herman Weiss said it might be a good idea to send flyers to various yachting clubs in the area promoting ham radio and the classes put on by the club.

The meeting was adjourned at 2045.

Norm Baetz WA6CLK sec.

MORE COMING EVENTS

Chuck Deatrack, WA6SQQ

It is that time of the year for all of us, as amateur radio operators, to think about volunteering for one or more of the events for which the Marin Amateur Radio Society will be providing radio communications, as we have for many years.

If all of us, not just a few, contribute toward this worthwhile endeavor, it sure would make it easier and simpler to provide the essential radio communications for the events. Events that are known at this time and the approximate times involved are listed below.

Multiple Sclerosis Walk/Run: Saturday, April 22. Time: 7:00AM to approx. 2:00PM. Location: Tiburon.

Miwok Trail Run: Saturday, May 5 Time: various according to location, staggered from net control at 5:30AM to about 9:00AM and the finish at about 10:30PM (yes, PM) If you can work about 5 hrs, it will help. Location:

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he lived in Belvedere, that this often drew a yawn and a move onto more important things and more interesting DXers.

So he went to the San Quentin Post Office, which is just outside the east gate but still on prison property, rented himself a post office box and thenceforth told the world that he lived in San Quentin. Recognition was instant when that town's name was mentioned, even in far distant lands.

Should you ever doubt that, try mailing your Christmas cards at San Quentin. Value the San Quentin postmark. Maybe you should not even wait until then, there are usually no patrons at the office when one drops in. If you live within reasonable range, you might be surprised how easy it is there to buy the latest postage increases.

So why not consider calling the club the SQRC, the San Quentin Radio Club. Even rent a post office box out there for the club's official address. It could be a short step and a quick solution to the problem of enduring identity. Or should we say: "...instant notoriety" ?

As this seems to be a win-win situation, rest a bit about getting the club's mail mixed with the inmate's mail. For the prison itself, the mailing address is officially given as Tamal, CA 94974. The box numbers run high at this address, it administratively being a postal station of the San Quentin Post Office. The San Quentin post office itself responds to the ZIP code of 94964. The residents of the San Quentin village use this address.

In all of the above there should be found the needed solution for the club's name. Sometimes one wonders if it is confusion over similar titles, or sometimes one wonders if the bar sinister is hidden somewhere in the club's title, this possibly from something in those long gone years of the past. Until the answer is found, rise at each dawn to scan the brightening eastern sky and there seek the answer. It is there someplace, it will come someday. Maybe even tomorrow— Believe that!!

Hugh Cassidy WA6AUD

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Plan to be part of this fun happening as we test emergency preparedness. The plan is to operate on different bands according to propagation, e.g., 80m at night and 10m by day, CW or phone, depending on the op's preference.

Ed Karl KOKL

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Human Race: Saturday, May 12
Time: 7:00AM to approx. 2:30PM
Location: Larkspur/Corte Madera

Dipsea Race: Sunday, June 10
Time: 7:00AM to approx. 3:30PM
Location: Mill Valley to Stinson Beach.

Double Dipsea Race: (tentative date) June 24. Time: 7:00AM to approx. 3:30PM Location: Stinson Beach to Mill Valley and then return to Stinson Beach.

If you have never worked these events, not all of the volunteer radio operators work the entire times listed above. As the last runner passes though your assigned location, you will advise Net Control and if everything is normal, Net Control will advise you to close your station. If you have any question call or email Chuck Deatruck at (415) 897-7267, email: Chaslin@cmc.net

Let's support these events, it's better to have too many volunteers than too few !!!!

Chuck Deatruck, WA6SQQ, submitted his resignation as the Public Service Coordinator after participating in the events since 1993 and the coordinator for the past three years. Chuck is anticipating leaving Marin and moving to either **Amador** or **El Dorado** counties later in the year. This leaves a void and Marin Amateur Radio Society is looking for someone to step in ASAP and take over as the Public Service Coordinator while Chuck is still available to give assistance, if needed. If you or someone you know is interested in coordinating the events contact the club President, John Iacono or the club Secretary, Norm Baetz.

We need someone real soon!

Congrats to Jesse Crocker, KG6FNF, Tech., our newest Marin Radio Amateur.

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Errors, additions or deletions?

Let us know, preferably by email or in writing. If we're in eyeball mode, make sure we write it down. ed.

(Poor grammar is n.a.)

Club Meetings

General Membership Meeting is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse on Shell Road in Mill Valley, starting at 7:30 PM. Turn right at the first stop light west off hwy 101 at the Mill Valley/Tiburon exit. Bear to right at next stop sign, then turn left at next street, Shell Road. We are in the two story building on the left under the power lines. The upper floor is a private residence.

Business Meeting meets at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley on the second Tuesday of each Month at 7:30 PM. Members are encouraged to attend.

Sunday morning informal meeting, smilingly called The Bible Class, meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting at roughly at 0800 hours and runs to around 1100 hours.

Dues structure is: \$20.00 per year for regular or family memberships. No dues are charged for Life or Honorary members.

Coming Events

See page Two.

Marin Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

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